THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of the present security scenario, instructions for taking proper precautions have already been issued to all Indian Mission/Posts abroad.

Chinese arms with North-East insurgents

823. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govenrment's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the "Pioneer" dated the 25th December, 2001, under the heading Chinese AK-47s floating in North-East;

(b) if so, whether Government had made any assessment about the availability of Chinese arms in North-East for insurgents, and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter was taken up with the Government of China with whom Government had entered into an understanding that they would not offer encouragement to North-East insurgents; and

(d) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government remains vigilant and takes all necessary and appropriate measures to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of India.

Assistance to Assam insurgents and ISI

824. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangladesh is providing various kind of assistance to Assam insurgents and to ISI activities;

(b) if so, the details of such assistance;

(c) whether Government have raised the matter with the Bangladesh Govenrment; and

(d) if so, their response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) The Government of India is aware of the reports that agencies inimical to India's interests, including the ISI, are misusing the territory of Bangladesh for their anti-India activities. The Government of India has been regularly taking up these security- related issues with Bangladesh at different levels through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisms existing between the two countries. The Bangladesh Government has stated that it will not allow undesirable elements to use its territory for activities prejudicial to the security interests of India.

Issue of fake passports

†825. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fake passports are still being issued unhindered in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any steps to prevent the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir. However, from time to time concerned security agencies *e.g.* police, emigration checkpoints etc. detect cases of passports having been issued to applicants who have submitted incorrect personal particulars.

(b) and (c) As and when a person with such passports is caught, legal action as per the provisions of the law is taken by the concerned authorities and the passport is impounded/revoked. Government has also strengthened measures to make the passport tamper proof by improvements in the security features of Indian Passports. The policy verification is designed to ensure that passports are issued after confirmation of the identity and nationality of the applicant.

Maoists bases in the border States

826. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Maoists from Nepal have set up their bases in India particularly in the border States;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.